

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, November 20, 2014**

A special board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2014 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member
Staff Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator; Jim Vlahovich, Interim Elections Department,
Present: Deputy County Administrator; Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board; Elda Orduno, Civil
Deputy County Attorney

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the canvass of the General Election held on November 4, 2014.

Chairman Call stated that he would not open for public comment, but would give representatives from the Barber and McSally campaigns time to address the Board briefly.

Ms. Elda Orduno, Deputy County Attorney, read the Board's statement relative to the responsibility of the Board regarding approving the canvass per statute.

Mr. James E. Vlahovich, Interim Elections Director, presented the details on the canvass using a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the statistics, equipment failures, and noted that all issues were addressed quickly. He explained that there would be a recount for the Congressional District 8 election due to the difference between the final votes and noted that all costs would be reimbursed by the Secretary of State's Office.

Mr. Kevin Hamilton, Barber Campaign Attorney, submitted a letter to the Board disputing whether certain ballots were not counted. He stated that the process of the canvass is about ensuring that all lawful ballots are counted and asked that the Board take the time to review the instances in which votes were not counted and canvass the election at a later time.

Supervisor Searle asked about the provisional ballots that were rejected.

Ms. Sylvia Gruhn, Deputy County Recorder, stated that the provisional votes not counted were due to missing signatures or voters not having proper ID. She added that the Recorder's Office had made several attempts to contact those voters.

Mr. Eric Spencer, McSally Campaign Attorney, stated that the objection by the Barber campaign should be addressed by a Court, not the Board of Supervisors. He added that the Board's responsibility is to canvass the election and the only reason not to canvass would be if there were missing votes, which is not the case. He said that any contest to the election would have to be done after the State canvassed the election.

Mr. Casey Jones, Chair of the Republican Party in Cochise County, said that the Elections Department had been very helpful and responsive during the Elections and that he recommended the Board invest in new equipment.

Chairman Call noted that Ms. Pat Fleming, Chair of the Democratic Party in Cochise County, had been invited, but could not attend and responded by email that she had no comment.

Vice-Chairman English stated that the County had put a lot of effort into educating voters on the voting process. She added that the structure of law does not allow the Board to be flexible on timelines or statutory requirements.

Supervisor Searle said he agreed with Vice-Chairman English's comments and noted that many press releases had been sent out to the public regarding the voting process.

Supervisor Searle moved to approve the canvass of the General Election held on November 4, 2014. Vice-Chairman English seconded the motion.

Chairman Call commended staff and said the Board would look into purchasing new equipment and making any changes to make the election process successful.

Chairman Call called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board